The Legend of the Hill of Seven Colors
An Argentinian Folktale

Había una vez (Once upon a time…) When the town of Purmamarca was formed, it is said that the hills around the town were plain and dull. They were just like any other hills from any other village or town in the world: unremarkable, boring, and colorless.

The children who lived in the town of Purmamarca disliked their plain hills. They all thought that the hills looked boring, and a little sad. They asked their parents what they could do to make the hills look more cheerful, so that they could bring some joy to the town. The parents didn't have any good ideas, and told their children that they would get used to the plain hills. After all, hills all over the world looked just the same.

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But, as it usually happens, the children were not ready to give up. They didn't want to get used to plain, boring hills! Instead they came up with their own plan.

The children decided to gather as much paint as they could find, climb up the hills, and paint them. Not wanting to get into trouble, the children told their parents the plan, but the parents thought that the children were just playing. They didn't believe that the children would REALLY go up into the hills to paint them! But they did. Each night, for seven nights, the children crept out of their beds, climbed up to the hills, and painted the hills with all of the colors that they had gathered.

On the seventh night, however, one child's parent woke up in the middle of the night to check on their child. The parent saw that the child was not in his bed, as he should have been.

And so it happened that all of the parents realized that the town was empty of children. Worried, they looked everywhere for their little ones. They searched high and low, but there were no children in sight. At last, when they couldn't think of any place else to look, the parents remembered what their children had said about painting the hills. When the sun was just beginning to rise, they walked, all together, to the edge of town and looked up into the hills.

The parents couldn't believe their eyes! What they saw took them all by surprise. The hills, which used to be plain and boring, were transformed into the happiest, most beautiful hills they had ever seen. The hills of Purmamarca were full of color! They were painted with seven bright, lively, and happy colors. And the children who had painted the hills were laughing and playing, full of joy and pride. Since that time, the hill of the seven colors has brought joy to the town of Purmamarca, and to all of the children and families who visit.